

The genetically engineered Dotterel egg

Problem: The New Zealand Dotterel is an endangered species with only 1700 remaining in the world. Each year hundreds of potential chicks die due to eggs being harmed by predators, careless feet, motor vehicles and storm waters. The Dotterel egg is of medium size, it is camouflaged and it is laid near the high tide line. If we can save more eggs then we can increase the number of Dotterels and save them from extinction.

Your task: In recent years science and technology has advanced dramatically. We are now able to genetically alter the structure and characteristics of the Dotterel's egg shell. Your mission is to design a new egg shell that will keep the young chick growing inside safe from harm.

Things to consider:

- Colour
- Shape (remember that the Dotterel must still lay the egg and therefore sharp angles on an egg may harm the bird)
- Size
- Material
- Strength
- Buoyancy

Start drawing your plan on the following page and then write down the interesting facts about your egg in the space provided. When finished start on your model which will be a replica of the real egg.

